

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT
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1. All Zionist centers in Bucharest have been closed by the government in retaliation against Zionist propaganda in favor of immigration to Israel. All Jewish-operated trade and handicraft schools in Bucharest, where students received training for the day when they would immigrate to Israel, were also closed.
2. The Jews living in Rumania formerly belonged to two religious groups, the Spanish and the German sects. By order of the government, both sects were merged into one single group under the leadership of the Jewish Democratic Committee (Comitetul Democrat Evreesc - CDE). This committee enjoys the support of the Rumanian Communist Party, and its leaders are recruited from the ranks of the Communist Party. The committee publishes a weekly paper, The New Life (Viata Noua), the principal object of which is to discourage immigration to Israel. It also organizes teams of "enlighteners" (indrumatori), who visit all Jewish homes and try to convince the Jews not to immigrate to Israel. The work of these "enlighteners" is supported by two exhibitions opened in two Bucharest movie theaters, the Mosilor and the Gloria, where documents and photographic material depicting the misery of the immigrants in Israel are displayed.
3. The slaughter of poultry according to the ritual of the Jewish faith is done in Bucharest at the central slaughterhouse. The faithful who want to purchase poultry slaughtered according to Jewish ritual have to pay a tax varying between 4 lei and 6 lei per fowl. This tax is levied by the government which pays 360 lei monthly to the rabbi who performs the ritual.

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Restrictions Imposed on Bucharest Catholics

4. The Italian Catholic Church in Bucharest, located on Bulevardul Nicolae Balcescu (formerly Bulevardul Bratianu), has been closed since 1951 when its priest, Father Manticca, was forced to leave the country.
5. The Notre Dame Church in Bucharest is also closed. In the hall of this church important members of the Communist Party hold meetings at regular intervals. When such meetings take place, the movement of pedestrians in front of the church is diverted by militiamen who guard the street.
6. The following Catholic Churches have been authorized by the government to function in Bucharest:
 - a. The Saint Joseph Cathedral. (The priest of this cathedral is a certain Father Andrei Korn Despina, a Communist disapproved of by the Papal Nuncio in Bucharest. Despina was appointed by the authorities to replace Father Shuber, who was sentenced to life imprisonment. Despina is assisted by a German priest, Joachim Tuchsherer, who changed his name to Ion Dugariu, by Father Johann Jovanelli, and by a new priest, Andrei Hergheliegiu.)
 - b. The Baratiei Church, where Father Francisco Sunder and Father Frantz Klein serve Mass.
 - c. The Saint Thereza Chapel in the Bellu Cemetery where Father Otto Jose is the pastor.
7. The Catholic priests are not permitted to wear clerical garb in the streets. Their sermons are often recorded by stenographers and secret agents. The teaching of the Catechism has been permitted again since 1951.
8. One Vasile Begu, a Communist priest from the suburban village of Popesti Leordeni in the vicinity of Bucharest, acts as liaison between the Catholic communities in Bucharest and the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
9. All Catholic nuns have been interned on a farm located on the Bucharest-Olteneita highway. They are obliged to cultivate the farm and are not permitted to leave the area assigned to them. When going to a chapel located in the vicinity of their farm, the nuns are not permitted to wear their robes.
10. The buildings of the Notre Dame School for Girls in Bucharest have been converted into an espionage school operated by the Rumanian authorities.

Restrictions Imposed on Constanta Catholics

11. The Catholic Church in Constanta is closed after having been ransacked by the Communists. The Catholic priest Kendelbacher, who returned in January 1952 from the Soviet Union where he had been deported, celebrates Mass in a private residence located on Strada Tudor Vladimirescu.
12. It is estimated that approximately 3,000 members of the Catholic clergy in Rumania have been arrested.

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